high necessitating frequent adjustments on T.V. sets; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to ensure better monitoring and telecasting of Doordarshan programmes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (d) There have been instances of momentary interruptions in the transmission from Doordarshan Kendra, Delhi due to failure/low voltage of power supply at the transmitting station at Pitampura. Though a diesel generator has been provided at the transmitting station, momentary interruption in service occurs each time the source of supply is changed from the mains to diesel generator and vice versa. As most of the programmes originating from Doordarshan Kendra, Delhi are simultaneously relayed by a number of transmitters all over the country, including the one at Pitampura, Delhi, it is not feasible to restart the programme from the point of start of interruption.

2. Since Doordarshan, besides its own programmes, also telecasts programmes procured from other sources, the audio level of TV programmes, at times, varies. However, manual adjustments are made during the course of transmission to keep audio variations to the minimum. Improvement in the transmission facilities of Doordarshan is a continuous process and steps are taken, from time to time, to modernise and upgrade the euipment, depending on the availability of resources.

Killing of Civilian Tamils in Sri Lanka

*393. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sri Lankan troops had carried on bombardment and strafing in the Jaffna Area on August 22, 1990 and after;

(b) if so, what was the number of civilian Tamils killed in that attack; and

(c) whether Government have taken up the issue with the Sri Lankan Government to stop such wanton killings of the Tamils in Sri Lanka by its Army; if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While there are reports of civilian casualties, their number cannot be ascertained with accuracy.

(c) Government of India on several occasions, have expressed concern to the Sri Lanka Government about the safety and security of Tamils in Sri Lanka. In a statement on 27 August, the PM referred to reports of indiscriminate attacks on heavily populated civilian areas which were causing civilian casualties and rendering thousands homeless. The PM, while expressing deep concern at the sharp escalation of conflict in Sri Lanka appealed for an immediate cessation of hostilities and a return to negotiations.

Decision to Transfer Tin Bigha to Bangladesh

*394. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during his last visit to Bangladesh he had announced that the Indian territory of Tin Bigha in West Bengal would be transferred to Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, the details of the agreement according to which it would be transferred to Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) During my last visit to Bangladesh from 16-18, February 1990, I had reiterated the Government's commit-

ment to the implementation of the 1982 agreement to lease the corridor to Bangladesh.

(b) The Lease Agreement between India and Bangladesh to lease the Tin Bigha corridor to Bangladesh was signed on 7-10-82. In terms of the Agreement, India is to lease to Bangladesh an area measuring approximately 178 mtrs. by 85 mtrs, near "Tin Bigha" in Cooch Behar District of West Bengal, to facilitate access to and from the Bangladeshi enclaves of Dahagram and Angarpota.

Caste Enumeration in 1991 Census

*395. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to direct the Census Commissioner to carry out caste enumeration during the 1991 Census; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

D. P. Madon Commission on Meham Incidents

*396. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made by the D. P. Madon Commission set up to probe the violent incidents on the even of Meham bye-election; and

(b) by when the Commission is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED): (a) and (b) A Commission of Inquiry headed by Shri Justice D. P. Madon to look after Meham incidents has sought the services of the C.B.I. to assist the Commission under Section 5A of the Commission of Inquiry Act and necessary concurrence of the Government of India has been accorded to the Commission in the matter. The Commission has been requested to complete the inquiry and submit its report to the Central Government within a period of three months.

Special Grants to Orissa for Maintenance of National Highways

*397. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa have sent a new proposal for National Highway construction and re-construction in the Eighth Five Year Plan and whether Government have allocated special grants of funds for such repairs and maintenance;

(b) if so, the amounts earmarked therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to declare the portion of State Highway from Pani-Koili to Rourkela via Keonjher Barbit-Koira-Raja Munda on National Highway 23 as a National Highway; and

(d) if so, the cost thereof and by when it is likely to be declared as National Highway?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) The Government of Orissa had submitted proposals amounting to Rs. 333.18 crore for development of National Highways, including new National Highways, to the Working Group on Roads for the Eighth Plan set up by the Planning Commission. However, Eighth Plan is still to be finalised. In the meantime, during 1990-91, an amount of Rs. 11 crore has been